



EXCISE
Department of State
DECLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM

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AN: D800085-0051

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 ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 ACDA-12 SES-01 SSM-03 SSN-02
 SPH-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-1G L-03
 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TMS-01 /095 W

-----069961 171305Z /48 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AFR

O R 171101Z FEB 80
 FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 603
 INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
 AMCONSUL KAHACHI
 AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

REVIEWED by **G.R. Durr** DATE **2/21/87**
☐ RELEASE ☐ UNCLASSIFIED
☒ EXCISE ☒ DECLASSIFIED BY DATE
☒ AUTHORITY
 FOI, EO or Pa exemptions **(EX-101)**
☐ CLASSIFY as _____
☐ DOWNGRADE TS to _____

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E.O. 12065: RDS-2/4 2/14/90 (ARCHARD, D.B.) OR-M
 TAGS: PK AF UR MOPS PINS
 SUBJECT: (C) RUSSIAN TROOPS IN JALALABAD

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SOVIET SOLDIERS HAVE RECENTLY BECOME MORE VISIBLE IN THE JALALABAD AREA OF EASTERN AFGHANISTAN, AND ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES THEY MAY BE ENGAGING IN GROUND MILITARY OPERATIONS. REPORTEDLY THE CONTINGENT OF ABOUT 1,000 WHICH ARRIVED IN EARLY JANUARY WAS AUGMENTED BY MANY OTHERS ON FEB 7 AND 8.

3. I HAVE EARLIER REPORTED ALLEGATIONS THAT SOVIETS HAD PROVIDED ARTILLARY SUPPORT TO AFGHAN ARMY OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST NATIONALIST FORCES AT KAHACI. SUBSEQUENTLY, ANOTHER SOURCE SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN IN ACTION AT SURKHRAUD AGAIN AS GUNNERS. STILL ANOTHER CLAIMS THAT

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ABOUT 40 SOVIETS WERE KILLED IN ACTION AT SURKHRAUD.

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ABOUT FEB 8.

4. A NUMBER OF SOVIET SOLDIERS ARRIVED AT JALALABAD AIRFIELD BY PLANE ABOUT FEB 7, ACCORDING TO TWO SOURCES. ONE SOURCE POSITS NUMBER OF NEW ARRIVALS AT 2,700; THIS STRIKES ME AS IMPROBABLY HIGH. SEVERAL SOURCES AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAS BEEN A BUILDUP OF MEN AND AIRCRAFT AT JALALABAD AIRFIELD. REPORTS ON AIRCRAFT GO AS HIGH AS 50-60 MIGS, 25 MI--2 CHOPPERS.

5. SOVIETS ARE REPORTED TO BE LIVING AT THREE AREAS IN AND AROUND JALALABAD. THESE INCLUDE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AIRFIELD/GARRISON AREA AND SOVIET-SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL PROJECT AT QHAZIABAD, OUTSIDE TOWN. NEW MENTION IS A PARK IN CENTRAL JALALABAD CALLED SHAHI BAGH (KING'S GARDEN). REPORTEDLY, OFFICERS ARE QUARTERED IN BUILDINGS THERE; TROOPS ARE IN TENTS.

6. REPORTED BUILDUP COULD RELATE TO PLANNED COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN AREA. ONE SOURCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOLD ME FEB 10 THAT SOME 50 SOVIET-CREWED TANKS HAD BEEN SHIFTED TO BESEIGED GARRISON AT ASADABAD, KUNAR PROVINCE. [REDACTED] SAID HE LEARNED OF ARMED PRESENCE FROM [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS JUST IN PESHAWAR SEEKING WEAPONS TO USE AGAINST SOVIETS. [REDACTED] SAYS [REDACTED] OBLIGED BY PROVIDING GENEROUS SUPPLY. (2/14)

7. SOVIET SOLDIERS WERE SPOTTED ON KABUL-TORKHAM ROAD FEB 9 ON BOTH SIDES OF JALALABAD BY A REFUGEE WHO SAW TRACKS JUST WEST OF CITY AND TWO SOVIET SOLDIERS, ARMED
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WITH KALASHNIKOVs, STANDING BESIDE PARKED TRUCK 5 MINUTES EAST OF CITY. ALL SOLDIERS APPEARED TO BE EUROPEANS.

8. ON FEB 10 AMERICAN OVERLAND TRAVELLER SAW KABUL-BOUND MILITARY CONVOY IN SAROB AREA. SOURCE COULD NOT SAY IF SOLDIERS WERE SOVIETS HOWEVER, AND TRAVELLER SAW NO SOVIETS IN JALALABAD ITSELF. NO TANKS WERE IN CONVOY.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT: DATE OF ABOVE INFORMATION FEB 11 AND EARLIER.

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